1703

His Majesties

MOST GRACIOUS

LETTER

TO THE

PARLIAMENT

OF

SCOTLAND.

WILLIAM R.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WE have had convincing Proofs of your Loyalty & good Affection to Our Person and Government in the former Sessions of Parliament, for which We return you Our hearty Thanks; And We do assure you, that We design to give you such Encouragement upon all Occasions, as may every way make you find the Advantage of your Faithfulness and Duty to Us.

We are sensible of the cheerful Assistance and Support We have had from you during the continuance of the War, which by the Blessing of God upon Our Endeavours, is now ended in an Honourable Peace; And the greatest Satisfaction We have in this, is, that thereby We have the Prospect of the Prosperity and Happiness of Our good Subjects.

We did intend to hold this Seſſion of Parliament in Perſon, that hearing in Our own Preſence, what concerns the Intereſt & Advantage of that Our Ancient Kingdom reaſoned upon; We might have been more fully informed of the Laws that are fit to be made: But the preſent Circumſtances of Our Affairs, both Here and Abroad has hindered Us from proſecuting that Deſign; And we having intire Truſt and Confidence in you, have thought fit again to call you together in Our Abſence, and have Nominated and Appointed Our right Truſty, and right intirely Beloved Couſin and Counſellor, *Patrick* Earl of *March-mount* Our Chancellor, to be Our Commiſſioner, and to Repreſent Our Royal Perſon and Authority amongſt you, of whoſe Fitneſs and Abilities for diſcharging this Truſt We are well ſatisfied; and We doubt not but his Fidelity and Zeal for Our Service, and the Good of the Kingdom, which has appeared in the ſeveral Stations wherein he has been imployed, will render him acceptable to you.

We have fully inſtructed him in what We judge to be neceſſary for the Support of Our Government, and Safety of that Our Kingdom; And therefore We deſire you to give him intire Truſt and Credit, and he has full Power to paſs ſuch Laws for the good of Our People, as appear to be moſt needful at preſent.

Our Enemies Abroad, and thoſe who are Diſaffected to Our Government at Home, are ſtill ready to lay hold of all Opportunities for carrying on their bad Deſigns; And therefore We judge it abſolutely neceſſary for your Preſervation, that the Forces upon the preſent Eſtabliſhment be continued: And We cannot doubt but you will provide ſuitable Supplies for maintaining of them.

The Funds given the former Seſſions have fallen ſhort of what was expected, which has occaſioned Arrears to be due to the Forces lately Disbanded; And there is alſo a Debt upon the Account of the Friggots, and the Forts and Garriſon-places need Reparation: And therefore we recommend to you to provide what may be ſufficient for theſe Ends.

It will be moſt acceptable to Us, that you fall upon effectual Methods for diſcouraging Vice, Immorality and Irreligion, and We are well ſatisfied with the Progreſs made in that Matter in the laſt Seſſion.

We do upon this Occaſion again give you full Aſſurance, that as We know Our Intereſt, and that of Our Peoples to be inſeparable, ſo We have firmly reſolved to make it Our principal Care to maintain their Religion, Laws and Liberties, and *Presbyterian Government* in that Church, and the Flouriſhing of Trade, being of great Advantage to Our Subjects: We will give all due Encouragement for promoting thereof.

We having propoſed nothing but what is neceſſary for your own Preſervation, do earneſtly recommend to you Unanimity, and a Cordial Concurrence in diſpatching thereof, that it may appear to all, you are not unmindful of the happy Deliverance you have had from the Dangers, to which your Religion and Liberties were formerly expoſed. In full Confidence whereof, We do aſſure you of Our Royal Favour and Protection in all your Concerns; So We bid you heartily Farewell. *Given at Our Court at* Kenſingtoun *the* 24 Day of *June* 1698, *and of Our Reign the Tenth Year.*

By His Majeſties Command,

Sic Subſcribitur, JA. OGILVIE.

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